

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bolivia

SUBJECT Communist Influence in the University of Oruro

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

25X1A

DATE DISTR. 6 May 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1A

25X1A DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The following faculty members and administrative officials of the University of Oruro in Bolivia are members or sympathizers of the Communist Party of Bolivia (PCB):

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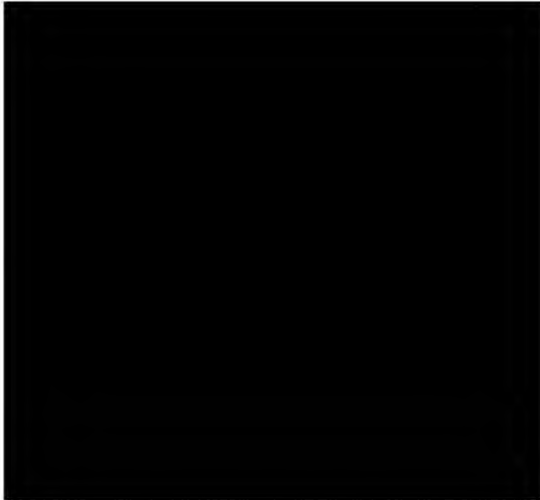
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2. Under the direction of the above-mentioned leaders, the press, radio, and other facilities of the University of Oruro are being used for Communist propaganda. As head of the Cultural Extension Department, Reynaldo VENEGAS co-ordinates the acquisition, publication, and dissemination of university material and frequently uses the university press and Radio Universidad for Communist material received from the Soviet and satellite diplomatic missions in Buenos Aires, and more recently through the Czech and Hungarian missions in La Paz.¹ Publications containing Communist-inspired, pro-Soviet and anti-U.S. articles are frequently distributed through the Cultural Extension Department. Two current examples are the Revista de la Facultad de Economia y Finanzas and Antecedentes Internacionales para la Reforma de la Educacion Publica en Bolivia, which contains several articles on the educational systems of Czechoslovakia, the USSR, and the Chinese Communist republic. As the University of Oruro is a state-supported school, all funds for activities such as the distribution of Communist material, conducted by the university, emanate from the Bolivian Government.
3. Communist influence at this university and misuse of funds for Communist purposes have led to the resignations over the past year of numerous non-Communist professors who became discouraged in their efforts to improve the school. In addition to the large-scale propaganda output, funds have been used to send delegates to international Communist meetings, while university laboratories and buildings in general continue to lack necessary equipment. Some of the university professors, like Manfredo SCHARF, an engineering professor who recently applied for membership in the PCB, find such membership the best guarantee of a future with the university.

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Comment. The above list of Communists on the faculty is indicative of the large extent of Communist penetration in the University of Oruro. As previously reported , approximately 35% of the total enrollment of 700 students at the university are Communist or sympathetic toward Communism.

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1. Comment. At present there is a Czech commercial mission but no resident Hungarian mission in La Paz. Both Richard Jezek, Czech Minister to Argentina, and Imre Szabo, Hungarian Minister to Argentina, who are also accredited to Bolivia, reside in Buenos Aires.

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